

Message Text

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62

ACTION AF-08

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R 170820Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9620

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 7778

LUSAKA PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, NI

SUBJECT: ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO NIGERIA

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA, JUST BACK FROM THREE-DAY VISIT TO NIGERIA, TOLD ME THIS MORNING VISIT HAD GONE VERY WELL FROM STAND-POINT OF IMPROVING THE LONG-STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS. HE CLAIMED THERE WAS A SURPRISING SIMILARITY OF VIEW ON NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES, INCLUDING SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE NEED TO KEEP ALL BIG POWERS AND SOVIETS IN PARTICULAR FROM GAINING DOMINANT INFLUENCE ANYWHERE ON THE CONTINENT. HE SAID NIGERIANS HAD TOLD HIM THEY WERE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT MPLA IN ANGOLA, BUT WITH VIEW TO PROVIDING NETO WITH ANOTHER OPTION FOR ASSISTANCE AND THEREBY HELPING HIM AVOID BEING TOTALLY BEHOLDEN TO THE SOVIETS. NGUZA SHOWED ME TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE, NOTING THAT SECTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA WAS ESSENTIALLY STANDARD NATIONALIST

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BOILERPLATE. HE SAID NIGERIANS AT HEART SUPPORTED CURRENT US

EFFORTS TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATED SOLUTION, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NERVOUS THAT THESE EFFORTS MIGHT NOT SUCCEED AND WERE THEREFORE RELUCTANT AT THIS POINT TO SAY VERY MUCH PUBLICLY (E.G., IN THE COMMUNIQUE). BUT NGUZA WAS CONVINCED NIGERIA IS EMERGING FROM ITS MORE RADICAL PHASE AND, AS HE PUT IT, FULLY SHARES ZAIRE'S CONCERN THAT AFRICANS' RHETORIC REGARDING IMPERIALISM FROM THE WEST NOT BLIND THEM TO THE GREATER DANGER FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

2. NGUZA SAID IT WAS NOT JUST FONMIN GARBA WHO HAD SPOKEN ALONG THESE LINES, BUT OBASANJO AS WELL. IN FACT, NGUZA SAID, "IF GARBA WAS REASONABLE, OBASANJO WAS EVEN MORE SO".

3. NGUZA WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY THE TREATMENT HE RECEIVED FROM FMG AS WELL AS FAVORABLE MEDIA ATTENTION BOTH IN LAGOS AND KADUNA. IN VIEW OF NGUZA'S SOMETIMES OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THINGS, WOULD BE INTERESTED IN WHETHER EMBASSY LAGOS SHARES HIS VERY POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARD RAP-PROCHEMENT AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH FMG REALLY SEES EYE TO EYE WITH GOZ ON ISSUES MENTIONED ABOVE.
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